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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1304  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 1871  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 0553  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 0300  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 0892  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE 0311  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1531  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 0548  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4484  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 0826  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 1838  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 2480  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 0543  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 0490  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0527  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 1960  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 9704  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 3498  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 4707

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001511

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/12/2018  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [WTO](#)  
SUBJECT: ITALY AGREES ON SUBSTANCE OF DEMARCHE TO G20  
NATIONS ON REJECTING PROTECTIONISM

REF: STATE 125609

Classified By: ECMIN Tom Delare for reasons 1.4 b and d

¶1. (C) Post delivered Reftel points on December 12 to Counselor Novello, Diplomatic Advisor to Undersecretary Urso of the Ministry of Economic Development. U/S Urso is in charge of international trade in the Ministry.

¶2. (C) Novello said that Italy shares the USG concerns expressed in the reftel and agrees that action is needed to discourage G-20 countries from implementing trade or investment barriers. Novello also said the GOI has already instructed its embassies to inquire with the countries that had announced the adoption of trade protection measures on what their specific intentions are. According to Novello, it is not clear yet if the countries referenced have actually implemented trade protection measures, or if their announcements to do so reflected a negotiating strategy for future WTO Doha round discussions. Our contact offered that since the countries in discussion are G-20 countries whose cooperation is crucial for the WTO Doha round negotiations, it would be best to approach them over the issue with caution and only after there is greater certainty over their intentions.

¶3. (C) Novello asked if the U.S. could share any information that we may have now or which may come into our possession regarding actual plans for raising of trade barriers by the G-20 countries (or others). He said Italy would do the same after their embassies report back. Besides sharing of information, Novello said Italy would be interested in collaborating with the U.S., and asked if the U.S. had any specific plans such as joint demarches. Post would appreciate advice on a response, and any further information that we can share with Italy.

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